

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating an airway condition of a patient where said airway condition is characterized by a dynamic response of a tissue of said airway to airflow, said method comprising:
 - selecting ~~an~~ a solid implant of pre-formed dimensions and dimensioned so as to be implanted into a target ~~said~~ tissue to be stiffened to resist deformation, said implant being formed of a material selected to induce a fibrotic response of material amount and having mechanical characteristics for said implant, at least in combination with a fibrotic tissue response induced by said implant, to passively, and without application of external energy, alter said dynamic response of said tissue without application of force external to said target tissue;
 - implanting said implant into said target tissue to alter said dynamic response.
2. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 comprising providing said implant to have a mass sufficient to alter said dynamic response following said implantation without substantially impairing a function of said tissue.
3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 comprising providing said implant to dampen said dynamic response following said implantation without substantially impairing a function of tissue.
4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 comprising providing said implant to stiffen said tissue to alter said dynamic response following said implantation without substantially impairing a function of said tissue.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for treating an airway condition of a patient where said airway condition is characterized by a dynamic response of a tissue of said airway to airflow, said method comprising:

selecting ~~an~~ a solid implant of pre-formed dimensions and dimensioned so as to be implanted into a target said tissue to be stiffened to resist deformation, said implant being formed of a material selected to induce a fibrotic response of material amount and having mechanical characteristics for said implant, at least in combination with a fibrotic tissue response induced by said implant, to passively, and without application of external energy, alter said dynamic response of said target tissue to air flow past said tissue without application of force external to said target tissue, and said implant having a longitudinal dimension and a narrower transverse dimension and said implant being flexible along said longitudinal dimension, said implant further dimensioned so as to not substantially increase a bulk of said target tissue following implantation of said implant into said target tissue; and

implanting said implant within said target tissue to alter said dynamic response.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for treating an airway condition of a patient where said airway condition is characterized by a dynamic response of a tissue of said airway to airflow, said method comprising:

selecting an implant dimensioned so as to be implanted into a target said tissue to be stiffened to resist deformation, said implant being formed of a material selected to induce a fibrotic response of material amount and having mechanical characteristics for said implant, at least in combination with a fibrotic tissue response induced by said implant, to passively, and without application of external energy, alter said dynamic response of said target tissue to air flow past said tissue without application of force external to said target tissue, and said implant having a longitudinal dimension and a narrower transverse dimension and said implant being flexible along said longitudinal dimension, and said implant having a stiffness selected to stiffen said target tissue to alter said dynamic response following said implantation without substantially impairing a function of said tissue;

implanting said implant within said target tissue to alter said dynamic response.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said airway condition is snoring.
8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said tissue is a soft palate.
9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 5 wherein said airway condition is snoring.
10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 5 wherein said tissue is a soft palate.
11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said airway condition is snoring.
12. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 6~~ for treating an airway condition of a patient where said airway condition is characterized by a dynamic response of a tissue of said airway to airflow, said method comprising:
 - selecting an implant dimensioned so as to be implanted into said tissue, said implant having mechanical characteristics for said implant, at least in combination with a fibrotic tissue response induced by said implant, to alter said dynamic response of said tissue to air flow past said tissue without application of force external to said tissue, and said implant having a longitudinal dimension and a narrower transverse dimension and said implant being flexible along said longitudinal dimension, and said implant having a stiffness selected to stiffen said tissue to alter said dynamic response following said implantation without substantially impairing a function of said tissue;
 - implanting said implant within said tissue to alter said dynamic response; and
 - wherein said tissue is a soft palate.